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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

The proposed settlement that Microsoft should give software to schools in order to settle it's debt is a gross miscarriage of justice. Please consider the following points:

1. Not a Penalty for Microsoft:

Apple gave free software and hardware to schools a decade or more ago, and even today, schools represent one of their largest markets. Apple did this as a marketing move, without any incentive from the courts, so it must have had some value to Apple. Assigning this same marketing plan to Microsoft both undermines Apple, and rewards Microsoft.

2. Security:

Microsoft has one of the worst track records on in the industry on security. The recent Code Red worm, for example, exploited a weakness in the microsoft application server. Dozens of other viruses have been written that exploit weaknesses in Microsoft Office applications. Many foreign governments are moving to Linux to avoid these weaknesses. Why force this unsecure software on schools?

3. Closed environment:

Microsoft is generally a closed software environment. For higher grades such as high school and college, open systems such as Linux or FreeBSD are much better for teaching the details of what computers do. Also, Microsoft does not support Java - one of today's primary programming languages. Java is supported on the Microsoft platform currently at Sun's expense.

Thanks
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